6   receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated

7   from a content managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

8   comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and

9   transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

10   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being in response to

11   comparing.

1   17. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a first

2   computer system, the method comprising:

3   receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first report

4   being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital work from

5   a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a transaction

6   identifier;

7   receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that

8   originated from a fourth computer system, the second report comprising a value and a payee

9   identifier;

10   comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier;

11   and

12   transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message enabling

13   a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being in response to

14   comparing.

1   21. A method for managing access to a digital work, the method for execution by a

2   reconciling node, the method comprising:

3   receiving at the reconciling node via a network a first report, the first report being

4   provided in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing

5   node to a content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

6   receiving at the reconciling node via the network a second report that originated

7   from a content managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

8   comparing at the reconciling node the value and the transaction identifier; and

9   transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

10   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier; wherein:

11   transmitting is in response to comparing;

12   the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in

13   accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report

14   originating from the content requesting node; and

15   receiving the first report comprises receiving via the network a plurality of

16   records and determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

Please add the following new claims:

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1   26. A reconciling node, for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving via a provided network a first report, the first report being provided

3   in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a

4   content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

5   means for receiving via the network a second report that originated from a content

6   managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

7   means for comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

8   means for transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

9   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier, transmitting being responsive to the

10 means for comparing.

1   27. The reconciling node of claim 26 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference,

2   the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting

3   node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

1   28. The reconciling node of claim 26 wherein receiving the first report comprises:

2   receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

3   determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

1   29. A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report

3   being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a

4   content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective

5   transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

6   means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report

7   originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a

8   respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

9   means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the

10   particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

11   means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and

12   the respective value of the particular second report; and

13   means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with

14   the comparison.

1   30. The reconciling node of claim 29 wherein each tracking value comprises an address of the

2   content requesting node.

1   31. The reconciling node of claim 29 further comprising:

2   means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report

3   comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

4   means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

5   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely

6   received.

1   32. The reconciling node of claim 29 further comprising:

2   means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report

3   comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

4   means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

5   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not

6   originated in a predetermined sequence.

1 33. The reconciling node of claim 32 wherein:

2   the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting nodes;

3   each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective event

4 reporting node; and

5   the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second message via the

6 network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for eliminating error in

7 sequence detection.

1 34. A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving at the first computer system via a network a first report, the first

3 report being provided in response to a transaction that transferred via the network the digital

4 work from a second computer system to a third computer system, the first report comprising a

5 transaction identifier;

6   means for receiving at the first computer system via the network a second report that

originated from a fourth computer system, the second report comprising a value and a payee

identifier;

9   means for comparing at the first computer system the value and the transaction identifier;

10 and

11   means for transmitting from the first computer system onto the network a message

12 enabling a credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier.

1 35. The reconciling node of claim 34 wherein the first report comprises indicia of a difference,

2 the difference prepared in accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting

3 node and a summary report originating from the content requesting node.

1 36. The reconciling node of claim 34 wherein the means for receiving the first report comprises:

2   means for receiving via the network a plurality of records; and

3   means for determining the first report in accordance with a record of the plurality.

1 37. A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving via a provided network a first report, the first report being provided

3   in response to a transaction that provided the digital work from a content providing node to a

4   content requesting node, the first report comprising a transaction identifier;

5   means for receiving via the network a second report that originated from a content

6   managing node, the second report comprising a value and a payee identifier;

7   means for comparing the value and the transaction identifier; and

8   means for transmitting from the reconciling node onto the network a message enabling a

9   credit to an account corresponding to the payee identifier; wherein:

10   (1) the first report comprises indicia of a difference, the difference prepared in

11   accordance with a start report originating from the content requesting node and a summary report

12   originating from the content requesting node; and

13   (2) the means for receiving the first report comprises means for receiving via the

14   network a plurality of records and determining the first report in accordance with a record of the

15   plurality.

38. A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report

3   being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a

4   content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective

5   transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

6   means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report

7   originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a

8   respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

9   means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the

10   particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

11   means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and

12   the respective value of the particular second report;

13   means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with

14   the comparison;

15   means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report

16   comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

17   means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

18   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not timely

19   received; wherein:

20   (1) the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting

21   nodes;

22   (2) each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective

23   event reporting node; and

24   (3) the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second

25   message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for

26   eliminating error in sequence detection.

1   39. A reconciling node for managing access to a digital work, the reconciling node comprising:

2   means for receiving via a provided network a plurality of first reports, each first report

3   being provided in response to a respective transaction that provided the digital work from a

4   content providing node to a content requesting node, each first report comprising a respective

5   transaction identifier and a respective first tracking value;

6   means for receiving via the network a plurality of second reports, each second report

7   originating from a content managing node, each second report comprising a respective value, a

8   respective payee identifier, and a respective second tracking value;

9   means for identifying a particular first report and a particular second report, wherein the

10   particular reports have corresponding tracking values;

11   means for comparing the respective transaction identifier of the particular first report and

12   the respective value of the particular second report;

13   means for transmitting onto the network a message enabling payment in accordance with

14   the comparison:

15   means for receiving via the network a plurality of third reports, each third report

16   comprising indicia of a respective debit in accordance with a respective transaction; and

17   means for detecting the occurrence of an invalid transaction wherein for the invalid

18   transaction, at least one of the first report, the second report, and the third report are not

19   originated in a predetermined sequence, wherein:

20   (1) the plurality of third reports is provided by a plurality of event reporting

21 nodes;

22   (2) each third report comprises indicia of time of day determined by a respective

23 event reporting node; and

24   (3) the reconciling node further comprises means for transmitting a second

25 message via the network from which each event reporting node can adjust its time of day for

26 eliminating error in sequence detection.

1   40. A method for assuring security in a content delivery system, the method comprising:

2   determining absence from a first report of indicia of a particular permit indicated by a

3 second report, wherein:

4   (1) the first report comprises indicia of a plurality of permits, the first report being

5 prepared in response to a plurality of first requests, each first request being for a respective

6 permit of the plurality of permits; and

         (2) the second report comprises indicia of a second request for a digital work; and

         determining that a security violation has occurred in response to determining absence of

9 the indicia of the particular permit.

1   41. The method of claim 40 being performed by a reconciling node.

1   42. The method of claim 41 wherein the reconciling node receives the first report from a content

2 providing node.

1   43. The method of claim 42 wherein the reconciling node receives the second report as a

2 consequence of delivery by the system of the digital work.

Remarks

Claims 9-43 are pending in the application. Independent claim 9 and its dependent
claims 10, 11, 18; independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 13 and 19; independent claim
17 and its dependent claims 20, 24, 25; and independent claim 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.
§ 103 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent 5,629,980 to *Stefik* and U.S. Patent 5,893,128 to